

CONTINUATION REVIEW KEY FINDINGS & SUBCOMMITTEE OPTIONS
Department of Commerce – Office of Science and Technology (OST)

I. KEY FINDINGS BY FISCAL RESEARCH

- 1) OST has been ably performing the work the General Assembly and the Department has directed it to do.
- 2) Recent reduction in staffing was the result of a decision made by the Department, not the General Assembly

II. FUNDING OPTIONS

1) Restore \$215,588 recurring in funding.

NCGA could direct OST to focus on more strategic issues and phase out of grants management, which will occur naturally without new funding for the Green Business Fund or the One NC Small Business Program

2) Provide no funding for FY 2012-13.

This option would shut down OST and leave approximately 50 grants without anyone to handle grant management and the Board of Science and Technology without staff support.

3) Provide a reduced level of funding (non-recurring or recurring).

NCGA could choose to fund only one position and continue to fund OST until all grants are closed out; NCGA could then direct the Office to close.

4) Provide additional funding

- a. NCGA could provide funding for an assistant director and/or interns, as requested in the report. This option would allow OST to handle grants management as well as focus on strategic issues. However, if funding is not provided for grant programs, it's not clear that additional staff is needed.
- b. NCGA could also choose to fund the Green Business Fund and/or the One NC Small Business Program, with or without additional funds for additional staff. Funding the grant programs without providing additional staff support would most likely mean that OST would continue as it has for the past several years, without time to focus on strategic issues.